

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, we could not forget those who voluntarily subject themselves to the same harsh conditions in order to care for and protect refugees and displaced persons. It was necessary to pay a special tribute particularly to the men and women who have suffered violence, many to the point of death, in their efforts to assist the people of Darfur. Humanitarian groups there have reported being harassed by the Government of Sudan and deliberately attacked by rebel groups. Over a dozen humanitarian workers have been killed over the past year. In mid-December 2006, armed groups launched a major attack against NGO compounds in Gereida, South Darfur. On January 19, 2007, Sudanese Government security forces arrested and severely beat 20 UN staff members in Nyala, South Darfur. On February 5, 2007, a civilian police officer with AMIS was killed in an IDP camp in the North.

The men and women who risk their welfare and their very lives to care for these refugees truly live out the words, "I was hungry, and you gave me food; thirsty and you gave me drink; a stranger, and you welcomed me." I convey to these heroic men and women my personal gratitude for lending their hands and hearts to some of our poorest brothers and sisters.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 21, 2007, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 542. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on agreeing to H.R. 2764, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations for FY 2008.

HONORING MS. JILL CARPENTER NOAA TEACHER AT SEA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Jill Carpenter, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, for her dedication to bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Ms. Carpenter, a fifth grade teacher at Hutchinson Farm Elementary in South Riding, VA, was chosen last summer by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a ten-day research cruise on the Atlantic Ocean. From aboard the NOAA Ship DELEWARE II, Ms. Carpenter not only researched fisheries, but also interviewed scientists, maintained daily logs, and engaged in dialogue with her fellow teachers, students and the general public. She took part in the Teacher at Sea experience in order to enrich her curriculum and excite her students about the sciences.

In her log, Ms. Carpenter wrote, "It is exciting to see science experiments happening

every day, with real people in a real-life context, instead of reading about it from a worksheet or having that intangible image in my mind of a mad scientist in a white lab coat stirring a beaker of something bubbling. Science is accessible to everybody! You don't have to be in a fancy laboratory or have the latest equipment. It can be done inside or out, on a boat or in your backyard. Science encompasses so many fields and is available to anyone with a curious mind. I am excited to share this realization with my students and make science more real to them. I am looking forward to returning home to my family, friends, and classroom and sharing my experience with them. This trip has been invaluable to me in so many ways. I have met with many amazing people, I have participated in recording ocean data, and I have seen how much thought, effort and talent goes into running a fisheries research vessel. I gained hands-on knowledge and experience." Ms. Carpenter was supported by a partnership between the Loudoun Education Foundation and the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program.

I am proud to call attention to Ms. Carpenter's dedication. I congratulate Ms. Carpenter on her spirit of adventure, her willingness to try new things, and her ability to bring this experience back to the classroom. I also commend the Loudoun County School district and the Loudoun Education Foundation for supporting the efforts of this teacher to promote scientific education in the classroom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007 and Wednesday, June 20, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 499, 500, 501, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525 and 526.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on the following rollcall votes: 499, 500, 501, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 521 and 526, and "nay" on the following rollcall votes: 517, 518, 519, 520, 522, 523, 524 and 525.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE PETERS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mike Peters and to thank him for his leadership in the fight against cancer. Through his internationally-acclaimed music, his Love Hope Strength Foundation, and through his personal victories over cancer, Mike Peters has been a source of inspiration and hope to the millions affected by cancer around the world.

Mike Peters is best known as the vocalist of the legendary Welsh rock band, The Alarm, whose music has received critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide. After being diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in

1995, he could have canceled his band's upcoming tour and fought his illness in private. Instead, he courageously moved forward with the tour and, as Mike has put it, "went to war with his mind," wearing his now-famous green combat fatigues throughout the tour, and keeping a positive outlook on his life. When he returned, that courage and optimism paid off—his condition had reversed and he no longer needed treatment.

Ten years after his first victory over Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, he found out he would have another battle ahead. In 2005, he was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. These cancers develop within a patient's lymphatic system and can be difficult to treat, depending when it is caught. Significant strides have been made in finding treatments for leukemia and lymphoma, but more must be done to prevent these diseases from occurring and to alleviate the suffering of so many who are diagnosed with these diseases every year.

With the same positive attitude and green combat fatigues that carried him through his first battle with cancer, Mike did not let his diagnosis slow him down. Using his musical talents and network of artists, Peters established the Love Hope Strength Foundation to build a support network for cancer patients worldwide. The goal of the Foundation is to increase funding for cancer research, lighten the financial strain of medical care on cancer patients and their families, and inform government officials about the concerns of cancer patients. Peters continues to maintain a busy tour schedule, giving inspired performances and raising awareness about his foundation and the fight against cancer.

Mike Peters should be applauded for not taking his diagnosis without a fight. His personal victories over cancer and his foundation's programs are giving hope to families and communities worldwide. His efforts are an example for how one person can turn his struggles into a triumph and an inspiration for others, and it is my privilege to honor him here today.

PAULA BLINCOE COLLINS' ART SELECTED FOR THE CITY OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, it is my greatest pleasure to announce that Paula Blincoe Collins of Denton has been selected by the Denton Public Art Committee to create its first commissioned piece of public art which is to be displayed in the lobby of the Denton Civic Center. The piece is a mural that portrays Quakertown, an African-American settlement that stood where the Denton Civic Center is before it was relocated to Southeast Denton in the 1920s.

The artist Paula Collins is well known for her skills in brick sculpture. Among her many creations are two previously completed projects for City facilities, the "Woman of Justice" installed in 1994 and two entrance monuments erected in Denton at the Pecan Creek Waste Management facility in 2000.

For this project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2008, Ms. Collins will consult with the descendants of the original